

Become a Friend of Los Gatos Public Library

Off The Shelf is published quarterly by Friends of Los Gatos Public Library, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established to encourage use of the library for the pursuit of knowledge, information and pleasure; to increase public awareness of library resources; to raise funds for library enhancements; and to provide volunteer help to the library and its patrons. Friends yearly memberships run from October 1 to September 30.

If you would like to become a Friend of Los Gatos Public Library, please complete the membership application below and mail to: Friends of Los Gatos Public Library, 110 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

() I would like to become a member. Enclosed is my membership application and a check made payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library.

Tax deductible, annual dues are as follows:

() Senior/Student \$10 () Individual \$15 () Couple/Family \$25 () Life Member \$500

() Sustaining \$50 () Patron \$100 () Business \$100 () Additional Gift _____

() Gift Membership in the amount of \$ _____ Name: _____
Address: _____

() I would like to volunteer for:

() Book sales () Hospitality () Programs () Publicity () Library volunteer () Membership

DESIGN: PATT MANN BERRY

EDITOR: MARY ANN COOK

LOS GATOS, CA 95030

110 EAST MAIN STREET

OF LOS GATOS PUBLIC LIBRARY



FRIENDS

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FRIDAY FORUM:
LOS GATAN DIANE DREHER
AUTHOR OF "INNER GARDENING"
SPEAKS FRIDAY, JANUARY 28.

off the shelf

Dreher's *Inner Gardening* takes reader on spiritual journey cultivating soil and spirit



Throughout history, gardening has been a familiar metaphor for self-cultivation, spiritual growth and renewal. Now, Los Gatan Diane Dreher has written a unique book, ***Inner Gardening: A Seasonal Path to Inner Peace***.

The book combines advice on promoting a green thumb with principles for cultivating greater joy in life.



Dreher will be the Friends' Friday Forum speaker on January 28 in the Los Gatos Council

Chambers. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. with book signing and refreshments. Dreher will speak at 7:30 p.m.

Inner Gardening offers insights not only on practical gardening, but also on cultivating the "garden within." This enchanting volume takes gardeners seeking a more serene and balanced life on a journey of self-renewal through the seasons of the year.

The author also offers a history of gardens—from the earliest subsistence gardens of 7,000

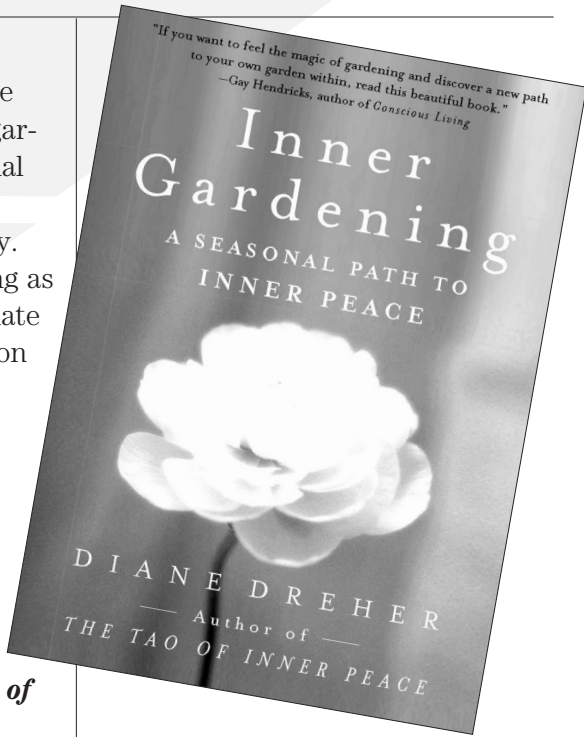
years ago to modern gardens created as art. Along the way we learn about medieval pleasure gardens and 17th century devotional gardens.

This era is Dreher's specialty. She grew interested in gardening as spiritual practice while in graduate school: she wrote her dissertation on spiritual development in the Renaissance. And, continuing that interest, **Dreher teaches Renaissance literature and creative writing at Santa Clara University**. As for her spirituality focus, Dreher is the author of ***The Tao of Inner Peace***, ***The Tao of Womanhood*** and ***The Tao of Personal Leadership***.

She conducts workshops on personal growth for business and community groups nationwide. She has a **Ph.D. in English from UCLA** and credentials in spiritual counseling and holistic health.

"IF YOU WANT TO FEEL THE MAGIC OF GARDENING AND DISCOVER A NEW PATH TO YOUR OWN GARDEN WITHIN, READ THIS BEAUTIFUL BOOK," ADVISES GAY HENDRICKS, AUTHOR OF *CONSCIOUS LIVING*.

A frequent radio and TV guest, Diane has been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines.



"Caring for a plant and watching it grow shifts our attention from the noisy industrial world to the enduring cycles of nature," Dreher says. "Gardening literally grounds us, returning us to more natural rhythms, teaching us important lessons, restoring our faith in life."

Practical tips, bits of history, recipes, questions to reflect on and personal exercises—are all found in ***Inner Gardening***. Dreher explores the spiritual while rejoicing in the wonders of nature.



President's Message

Kathie Gaylord



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, it will be 2005. Happy New Year to all of you. I have been taking time out this season to read Diane Dreher's book, *Inner Gardening*.

president

This book is a treasure whether you garden or not. Diane will be speaking at our next Friday Forum on January 28, 2005, and we hope you will all plan to attend.

We have had a wonderful response to our town-wide appeal. Thank you all so much for your membership. We are still looking for someone who might want to help us with publicity for Friends. If you have any interest, please give me a call at 356-7221.

Again, Happy New Year, and I hope you have a wonderful 2005.



Financial Report

*As of December 1, 2004
Friends financial totals:*

Current total assets . \$143,828
Savings account \$66,916
Reserve account \$75,836
Checking account \$1,076

Some of these funds are earmarked for specific expenditure, such as the reserve account, which was set up for future projects.

Reminder: Copies of *Images of Los Gatos, a pictorial history of Los Gatos* by Library Director Peggy Conaway, is for sale at the Library for \$20.

Friends Indeed Gene and Mary Martin

Friends of the Library salute the **Martins** this month—**Gene and Mary**.

This duo has been helping sort, set up and take down box-loads of used books ever since book sales have been a reality at the Los Gatos Public Library.

Their tenacious tenure has probably been for more than 20 years, the **Martins** and book sales honcho **Marge Rice** estimate.

They're as dependable as, well, good books, **Rice** would be the first to say. **Gene is a recently retired engineer for IBM** and **Mary is well known as the editor of *Bay Area Parent***.

She worked for the magazine for more than 10 years, rising from copy editor to managing editor. The magazine has since been

purchased by a national organization of parenting magazines.

Mary has been **President of the Los Gatos Art Docents** and **President of Van Meter Home and School Club**.

In the '80s she was the school district **Volunteer of the Year**.

Mary taught school in San Jose before her children came along, and later taught art as a substitute teacher in the Campbell district. She also had a stint as a social worker in Santa Barbara, interviewing clients for welfare eligibility.

The Martins are the parents of two sons—Nath, a captain in the



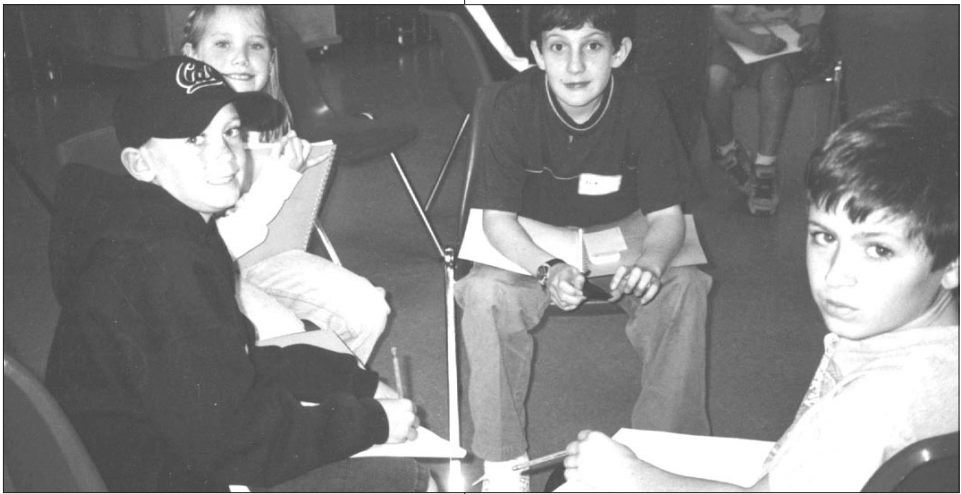
Army now in Iraq; and Scott, who works at the Prevention Research Institute in Oakland, doing research on addictions.

The Martins have been regulars on book sale shifts ever since returning from a two-year assignment in England. And why that particular volunteer job?

"We get first crack at the books!" says Gene decisively.



Young Writers Workshops: January 29 and April 9



As we go to press, four openings are left for the January 29 Young Writers Workshop; and 10 openings for the workshop April 9 for children 8-12. Both workshops are at the Los Gatos Neighborhood Center, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The popular program, led by Friends board member **Martha Alderson**, will help children learn how to develop plot and characters to build a story.

Alderson teaches writing at **U.C. Santa Cruz**, leads writing workshops for adults and teaches at the **Jack London Kids Writing Camp**. Alderson will also lead a Friends-sponsored workshop for youngsters at the **San Jose Children's Center** this spring.

"Even those who are reluctant participants complain the workshop is too short when it's time to quit. It's exciting to watch the magic happen—the discovery of their gifts, what's inside of them," Alderson says.

The award-winning writer founded a speech, language and learning disability clinic for children 4-18.

children

Children's Winter Programs

Thursday, January 20, 3:30 p.m.

Storyteller/juggler Bob Kann entertains
(Age 4 and up)

Thursday, February 10, 3:30 p.m.

Card making with Linda Levine, Meet at the Teen Zone
(Age 12 and up only)

Thursday, March 17, 6:45 p.m.

Family Night: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with T-Rex Thunderlizard's Wild West Review with Nick Barone puppets.
(Age 4 and up)

Storytimes:

Monday, 10:30 a.m.

Toddlers, ages 2-3

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

Preschoolers, ages 3-5

Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Mother Goose, ages 0-2

Children's programs are funded by Friends of Los Gatos Library



Young Writers Workshop Registration

Student's Name	Age
Workshop Date	New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing <input type="checkbox"/>
Street/City/Zip	Phone
Email	
Parent's Name	

We'll phone, email or send a post card to confirm your registration. For more information call the Friends message line at 399-5700.

New books in the Library

Fiction

Birds Without Wings

by Louis de Bernieres

A novel about Christians and Muslims of Turkish, Greek, and Armenian origin set in a small coastal town in Turkey during the last days of the Ottoman Empire. The characters have roots deep in the local soil. By the author of *Corelli's Mandolin*.

The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant
During the Renaissance in Florence, 15-year-old Alessandra reaches womanhood, attracted strongly to a painter her father hires to work in the family palazzo, but trapped in a miserable marriage with a much older man. The story plays out amid Medici luxury and opulence.

Meet the Staff

Donna Starov

Donna Starov may be that friendly soul checking your books out at the library. **Starov** was recently promoted from page to clerk and the circulation desk is one of her new duties.

As a dedicated library goer to supply her children—Aaron, 13; Eric, 11; and Danielle, 9—with plenty of reading matter, Starov thought to herself, “This would be a great place to have a job,” so she applied and was hired shortly thereafter.

In the three years she’s been at the library she feels she’s learned a

books

And a Puzzle to Die On

by Parnell Hall

Featuring the intrepid Cora Felton, the supposed “Puzzle Lady” and her much more sensible niece, Sherry Carter. For a fast-paced romp through murder and cross-word clues, these two are apt companions.

Non-Fiction

The Official eBay Bible

by Jim Griffith

The Dean of eBay Education shares his humor and know-how in this guide for the beginning bidder and seller, as well as the professional entrepreneur.



lot, and intends to go back to school to ultimately become a library assistant.

Her college work was at **Somerset County College in graphics** and she’s the one who decorates the library’s children’s room for all occasions.

Starov lives in Campbell and maintains two other jobs, as well

Jacob's Ladder: the History of the Human Genome

by Henry Gee

A surprisingly lucid explanation of the sequencing of the human genome, viewing the sequence as letters and words, and then delving into the heart of the “conversation.” Gee also explores possible future discoveries.

The Island at the Center of the World

by Russell Shorto

The Dutch settle what will become of the island of Manhattan and set the stage for the multi-ethnic richness of the city which evolved into an international central point of reference.



as her part-time library work. She is an assistant to muralist John Pugh, and she is also a freelance floral designer for weddings and other events.

No wonder colleagues describe her as a woman of boundless energy: she particularly loves dancing, and attends ballroom dancing classes with her boyfriend regularly. One can even find her dancing around the library from task to task sometimes.

The ever-ready Starov is the first to volunteer to haul boxes of donated books for Friends’ sales or any other chore looming. “I like the town, I like the patrons, and I love the people I work with,” she says with her hallmark enthusiasm.



Library Director's Corner

Peggy Conaway



The year 2004 was eventful, challenging and passed by in a flash, or so it seemed. The library continued as an important part of the civic fabric of Los Gatos.

Founded in 1898, our library is one of the oldest institutions in town. We continue to support the ideal of lifelong learning, with our doors open to all. **Our children's programs were attended by more than 10,000 kids and parents**, and our juvenile collection remains one of our strengths. **The second-grade library card campaign brought 82 children to the library**, new cards in hand.

Traditional library services are solidly in place and heavily used. But technology now influences nearly every aspect of what we do. Providing information to patrons when and where they need it is a major emphasis, and is evidenced in our ability to provide a state-of-the-art online catalog, a Website which includes 20 proprietary databases that go way beyond Google, and self service for those who wish to reserve materials remotely.

Our virtual library is open 24/7, at **library.losgatosca.gov**. Installation of a second self-check machine and Internet time management software also made us more efficient in 2004. Work on a difficult budget scenario for 2004/05 occupied much of my time this year, as the town struggled hard to maintain as much service as possible in the face of significantly fewer resources. In the end the library lost eight

director

hours of public service each week, and our collections budget was reduced by about 20 percent, or \$35,000. Expressions of concern from Friends of Los Gatos Library helped to minimize our losses. New carpeting in the adult area this year improved our physical space greatly. The 3rd Annual Town-Wide Read Laurie King's mystery book, was well received.

One of the highlights of 2004 was the growth of our local history project, working in partnership with the Museums of Los Gatos. **We have now digitized about 3,000 historic images and some text**, and are starting work on a comprehensive database of Los Gatos history. Volunteer **Dudley Warner** has generously donated many hours in helping us adapt open-source software to accomplish this goal. We wrote a number of grant proposals for the history project, and were successful in three cases, the largest from **The Valley Foundation for \$50,000**.

Borders Books held a benefit in August, Viva Restaurant in November, and Testarossa Vineyards in December. **The biggest benefit was the 100th anniversary of Ford's Opera House in October, which netted the history project \$8,790**, and was a fun-filled celebration of the amazing history of the town.

Personal note: Images of Los Gatos

On a personal note, I have been gratified with the acceptance of **Images of America: Los Gatos**. I began work on the book in 2003, and it was published September 22,

2004, as one component of the history project. Just before Christmas Arcadia Publishing called to tell me they have run out of books, and a third printing has been ordered, available in January.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the many families, organizations and individuals who have brought in photographs and other historic materials to the library to add to our project. Their contributions have been invaluable to the community. In 2005, watch for a one-hour documentary of Los Gatos based largely on the book, and produced and underwritten by **Lyric Media of Los Gatos**.



Special book sales

Sales of unusual books will be held on these dates in 2005:

January 22
April 16
July 16
October 15

Sales are conducted in the lobby of the Town Council Chambers and run from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The new schedule is quarterly, rather than every other month.

The special book sale in **November netted \$1,669**.

Book sale totals for the past three months:

December	\$1,063
November	\$954
October	\$1,340

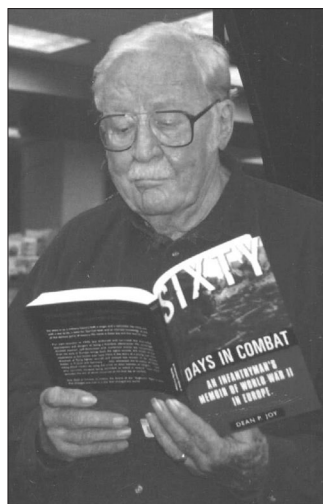
The library was closed for rug replacement for several days in November, which may account for lower totals, said **Marge Rice**, who oversees the sales.



Dean Joy, author of *Sixty Days in Combat*, Forum speaker March 18

Dean Joy has written *Sixty Days in Combat: An Infantryman's Memoir of World War II in Europe*. The book is a retelling of his war experiences—based on a combination of his remembrances, the journal he kept during that time, and the letters he wrote home to his parents.

Joy will speak at the Friends Friday Forum on March 18, starting with refreshments and book signing at 7:00 p.m. Joy's talk begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers and will be presented in interview format. Writer and Friends' board member Martha Alderson will conduct the interview.



Sixty Days is the story of the day to day inglorious grind that a combat soldier goes through. Joy sent three chapters to Presidio Press, (since absorbed by Random House) and they pounced on it. "I always intended to write a book about my experiences," the retired aeronautical engineer says. "The war was a defining moment in my life, a major impact. It changed my life forever."

Besides an astounding memory, Joy also had his journal and the letters his mother had saved to draw on. And he was even able to resurrect from his memory of happenings half a century ago to illustrate the book with twenty of his own pencil sketches.

Joy ultimately became a member of Patton's Army, part of the 71st Army Infantry, serving through France, Germany and Austria. He had been called to the front lines after working on a special training assignment at the University of Idaho. But General Eisenhower needed to beef up U.S. forces after the



Upcoming Friday Forums

Normandy invasion for the final thrust in Europe and called in all the troops he could. Landing in the infantry was a decided jolt, the very thing he had most feared, Joy said. When he joined the Army his first choice had been the Air Corps, but he hadn't been able to pass the eye tests. So he ended up in "the dirtiest, roughest job of them all." He served in a mortar squad and the book details the challenges, indignities and terrors of war, as well as the sheer capriciousness of bullets and shells, as G.I.s narrowly miss being killed by their own comrades.

After the war the 21-year old veteran came home with an Estonian war bride and took a job with **Douglas Aircraft** in Long Beach. But shortly, he went back to Denver to earn his **masters degree in aeronautics from the University of Colorado**.

For 42 years he worked in the aerospace defense industry, including a 30-year stint at Lockheed, where he worked on the Star Wars initiative. Joy has been married to his second wife, Ann, an artist, for the past 31 years.

Publisher's Weekly calls his book modest and clear—"a vivid account of the unsung mortarmen, operators of the infantry's pocket artillery...able weapons for inflicting harm on friend or foe."

From *Booklist*: "Joy will score big with WW II readers, reminding them of the infantryman's frightening, lonely lot."



WW II vets are dying at the rate of 1,500 a day, it is estimated, and for history's sake it is important that those still alive tell their story.

This personal history is one way to keep history alive. **Dean Joy's story has been digitized as part of the history project called Stories of Service**, preserved in the **Library of Congress**.

These stories are condensed into seven-minute DVD records. Part of *Sixty Days* has been made into an audio tape, and narrated by **Don Hastings**. Hastings may be better known as **Dr. Bob Hughes** on the soap opera, *As the World Turns*.



Lea Frey, author of *Dear Voices*, is annual meeting speaker May 13

Well-known Los Gatan **Lea Frey** will be the **Friends Friday Forum speaker at its annual meeting May 13**. Frey is the retired German and French teacher at **Fisher Middle School** and she is the author of *Dear Voices*.

Dear Voices is a collection of letters exchanged between five high school friends from 1944-2003. The impetus for the letter writing came when it was learned that one of the five had been incarcerated for armed robbery. Later he escaped, was put on the FBI's Most Wanted list, and recaptured. The four friends rallied to render him encouragement via letters.

This is their story, as well as the story of what was going on in the country during those sometimes tumultuous years, as recounted by people of vastly different political beliefs scattered across the country.

It's a story of love and redemption, as the cover puts it. Frey has edited the letters for brevity or repetition, but other than that, they stand as written. She saved them carefully through the years, always with the intent that she would write a book, to tell their amazing story.

A failed romance is an undercurrent flowing in the stories, too. Frey was once engaged to one of the other four shortly after their high school days, but had broken off the engagement.

The former fiancé is the least forthcoming of the letter writers. His offerings are very sporadic, though there is some healing evident as the years go on.

Small reunions have been staged by the friends through the years, but seldom with the whole group.

Frey is married to retired cardiologist William Frey and today she is language coach for **Opera San Jose** singers in French and German.

Dear Voices has been selected as the Town-Wide read for Los Gatos for 2005.

